



Meeting
January 17, 2012

Present: Commissioners

Steven Albee, At-Large
Sue Dana, Village of Calumet
Ed Jenich, Houghton County Board of Commissioners
Allan Johnson, State of Michigan
Bob Langseth, Calumet Township (via phone)

Absent: Commissioners

Kim Hoagland, At-Large
John Sullivan, Franklin and Quincy Townships

Present: Executive Director

Scott See

Present: Keweenaw National Park Service

Mike Pflaum, Superintendent

Present: Recording Secretary

Sidney Butler

Present: Guests

Judy Albee
Tom Baker, Management Assistant, NPS
Amy Berglund, Senator Levin's Office
Glenda Bierman, Quincy Mine Hoist Association
Kristine Bradof, Isle Royale and Keweenaw Parks Association
Anita Campbell, Keweenaw Heritage Center at St. Anne's
Paul Campbell
Kurt Hauglie, Daily Mining Gazette
Brian Hoduski, Chief of Museum Services, NPS
Virginia Jamison, Keweenaw County Historical Society
Jean Pemberton, Copper Range Historical Society
David King, Calumet Theatre
Mark Rowe, Keweenaw County Historical Society

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was called at 9:01 a.m., Tuesday, January 17, 2012, at the KNHP Headquarters in Calumet, Michigan.

Approval of Agenda

Approval of agenda as presented was moved by Steven Albee and seconded by Allan Johnson. Motion carried unanimously. (5/0)

Approval of Minutes of October 25, 2011

Approval of the minutes as presented was moved by Steven Albee and seconded by Allan Johnson. Motion carried unanimously. (5/0)

Approval of Financial Report

Approval of the the budget finance report including bills for \$24,348.29 as presented was moved by Allan Johnson and seconded by Ed Jenich. Motion carried unanimously. (5/0)

Approval of Phase III Survey Contracts

The third and final phase of the Historic Resource Survey includes surveying historic resources within the northern portion of Houghton County, as well as the creation of a preservation plan for the entire Keweenaw. The funding for this phase comes from a National Scenic Byways grant, the Midwest Regional Office of the National Park Service, and several private donations. Steven Albee moved to approve the following contract to complete Phase III:

Jane Busch	\$31,760 plus expenses
Erin Gollanek	\$18,840 plus expenses
Ryan Holt	\$11,075 plus expenses
Lynn Bjorkman	\$10,360 plus expenses
Alan Levy	<u>\$1,325</u>
Total	\$73,360

The motion was seconded by Ed Jenich and the motion carried unanimously. (5/0)

Approval of Smackdown Fundraising

The Commission will again be sponsoring the Smackdown which will be held on April 26, 2012. Ed Jenich has been working on fundraising and plans to solicit the businesses that have sponsored the event in past years. Steven Albee moved to authorize fundraising for the Smackdown. The motion was seconded by Alan Johnson and the motion carried unanimously. (5/0)

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Scott See reported on the goals of the Advisory Commission. More details can be found in the full report, attached.

Director See advised the National Park Service (NPS) at KNHP on park planning, preservation, interpretation and operational matters by working with the NPS staff to review types and numbers of culture resource personnel. He noted that cultural

resource personnel at KNHP is the highest in the region, yet more would be helpful. During the week of December 5th, See and the Commissioners participated in sessions with the NPS focused on the Calumet Cultural Landscape Report.

Toward the goal of developing the Keweenaw Heritage Sites Program into a consortium of fully sustainable sites, See first reported progress toward streamlining the guidelines for the program, with a May deadline for revised program documents to be presented to the Heritage Site group for discussion and ratification. Secondly, See shared that in order to connect the Heritage Sites to larger national organizations, professional organization membership was encouraged in the form of grants. Lastly, See stated that he attended a meeting of the heritage areas of the Midwest Region of the NPS. See shared a brochure from the Silos and Smokestacks Heritage Area as an example of how that area had marketed their partner sites. Despite differences, See expressed that the KNHP Heritage Sites share similar issues and for this reason, he anticipates that a partnership with the heritage areas would be valuable.

To address the goal of developing a cohesive park experience throughout the Keweenaw, See mentioned the Quincy Smelter Site. The Quincy Smelter Steering Committee reviewed a proposal to develop the smelter site for use by Isle Royale National Park. In addition, See met with the NPS and MDOT to discuss road realignment near the smelter. On February 8th at the Keweenaw Economic Development Alliance (KEDA) meeting, Director See and Superintendent Pflaum will conduct a presentation on the smelter progress and other park wide initiatives.

In promoting an historical preservation ethic and emphasizing heritage awareness, Director See mentioned six points.

See attended the 1913 Strike Centennial meeting at the MTU Archives. To gather input and volunteers, a public meeting will be held on January 28th at 1pm at the Calumet Visitor Center.

Copper Country Preservation, Inc. signed agreements with two local organizations to help collect funds for historic preservation activities. The Miscowaubik Club and the Calumet Elks are proceeding with projects to maintain their historic structures.

Phase III of the Historic Resource Survey will move forward once the National Byway grant funds are received by Western Upper Peninsula Planning & Development Region (WUPPDR).

Michigan Tech's Industrial Archaeology Program submitted a first draft of a poor rock, stamp sand and slag pile survey of the Keweenaw Peninsula. A final document will be delivered in the spring.

The school bus grant program brought around 400 students for tours at the Calumet Visitor Center. Sue Dana asked about the reaction of the children. See said that the program succeeded in getting students engaged. They were quiet for the movie and enjoyed interacting with the exhibits, notably pushing the buttons as fourth graders are prone to do. Positive reactions included students expressing that they wanted to bring their parents to the center.

The last grant agreement for the 2011 Heritage Grant Program was received. The 2012 Heritage Grant Program information should go out to the public by the end of January.

See concluded his report with the final Commission goal to develop the Commission into a sustainable operating organization. The trip to visit the regional office regarding park activities and Commission funding is being rescheduled due to Commissioner Hoagland's family emergency. Last year's Advisory Commission Minutes are now posted on the KNHP website. The completed 2011 Annual Report for the Commission will be posted online soon. FY11's operating funds from the NPS have been received and a grant agreement for FY12's operating funds has been signed. Quarterly tax forms were filed and all bills were paid.

Discussion following Executive Director's Report

Sue Dana asked if she would see a draft of the Culture Landscape Report and what the schedule for that would be. Superintendent Pflaum said there would be a near final draft this spring. Tom Baker clarified that it would be April. Scott See mentioned that the Quincy Cultural Landscape report has been done for about two years now and it has been good to see it being used to guide the Park Service in submitting project proposals. Sue Dana asked if there was still time to comment on the Calumet Report. Superintendent Pflaum said the April draft was the last chance, but it would be best if comments could be submitted before then. Bob Langseth asked if the report was available online. Superintendent Pflaum said he didn't think so but he could get Langseth a hard copy of the latest version.

Sue Dana asked about the schedule for the road realignment. See said the work was proposed to be done in 2014. They are currently surveying the road and determining what the alternatives are to make it safer in terms of speed and visibility. Tom Baker said that the recommendations of the MDOT's historian, responsible for section 106 compliance, are in line with what the KNPS would like to see done. That is, a more northerly realignment to avoid the slag pile. Sue Dana mentioned that she hasn't seen information regarding the usual pre-project meetings. Tom Baker stated that the project is in the five-year plan and there is a convergence of funding that will help. Scott See said there are some drawings of the road options available for viewing. Allan Johnson asked if straightening the road and including a right turn lane is one of the options. See stated that MDOT's goal is improving the safety of the area which is the current focus. The task is how to do that without damaging the historic resources. There is a desire by Franklin Township and the Quincy Smelter Steering Committee to make that site more accessible. That desire has not been talked about yet but is acknowledged. Tom Baker stated that MDOT will get the main realignment path taken care of first and the turn lanes will come in at the last minute.

Allan Johnson stated that road issues need to be addressed on Quincy Hill and he would be interested in learning how to initiate that process.

Commission Committees and Projects

Scott See stated that last year the Commission received an anonymous donation of \$100,000 to support Commission activities. This year, the same donor has given another \$100,000. About half of last year's funds went into the grant program. Not all of the money was spent, but the donor is pleased with plans to spend the remainder and so followed up with a second donation. See described the donation as a windfall and a huge sign of support of the Commission's work, allowing the Commission to do projects like the school bus grant program, professional membership and travel awards

for the Heritage Sites. Without the donation, the Commission would not have been able to do these projects. Sue Dana agreed and Bob Langseth asked See to convey to the donor the Commission's deep appreciation for the gift the donor has provided. Scott assured that he has done so.

In regards to Preservation-Stewardship, Scott See stated that there is excitement for the 3rd phase of the Historic Resource Survey. It has been a multiyear project and the Commission has been able to combine donations from the Americana Foundation, private individuals, the Park Service, and the Byway Program to move the project along. The contractors who are part of the project are excited to get started this summer. Sue Dana stated that the Commission has talked for over 20 years about creating a list of resources. The fact that it is finally getting done is wonderful. Steven Albee stated he thought that the start to the resource planning project helped get the area designated as a National Park. He thinks that the current historic resource survey is going to build on that to get the tools to widen the historic preservation ethic within the Copper Country. He is excited about what is going to happen with that. Sue Dana added that Lynn Bjorkman is still here working on that.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Mike Pflaum expressed his thanks to the Advisory Commission for everything they do for the Park and he thanked the guests from other organizations and the public for taking the time to attend with their interest and support. He announced that there were two others present from the NPS management team; Brian Hoduski and Tom Baker.

Pflaum began by talking about people as the core of the NPS organization. The NPS is a small close knit organization and as such he wished to acknowledge the unfortunate tragedy of the death of Ranger Margaret Anderson while on duty at Mt. Rainier National Park on January 1st. The alleged assailant was found deceased and the investigation continues. Ranger Anderson was 34 years old and had two young daughters. Pflaum said we do everything we can to keep ourselves safe but we realize there are risks of working in the public service.

Pflaum announced that museum technician Brandon Sexton left in December for a promotion in curatorial and museum archives work at Boston National Historical Park. Brian Hoduski announced that graduate student Megan Marsicek will be replacing Sexton provided all the paperwork is completed at the end of January.

Pflaum stated that the Park's newest permanent employee is Interpretive Exhibit Specialist Valerie Newman. In addition to having worked at several national parks, Newman spent some time at Isle Royale National Park earlier in her career. She was unable to attend today's meeting due to illness.

With respect to the recent grand opening of the Calumet Visitor Center, Superintendent Pflaum expressed his thanks to the Commission for their support and participation. He also acknowledged the other organizations which helped make the grand opening successful. He mentioned the staff and volunteers of the Isle Royale and Keweenaw Parks Association (IRKPA), the support of National Parks of Lake Superior Foundation (NPLSF) in the form of a grant, the Heritage Sites, the NPS staff, the community and local volunteers. Pflaum stated that response to the grand opening was tremendous. The number of visitors in the first week was so high that a count was not attempted. However, Pflaum reported the estimate of the number of people who have come

through the Visitor Center from November 1st to January 13th as 2,200 with an average of about 35 people per day. Pflaum said that once the Visitor Center becomes better known, the hours become better established, and the fact that admittance is free, it will continue to have better visitation, with a major uptick when the summer season arrives. Pflaum stated that he has received positive comments about the Visitor Center. Personally, he has found that as he is continuing to learn the history of the area, it takes multiple visits to absorb everything. He suggests that people come to the Visitor Center more than once and to bring friends and family. For the remainder of winter and early spring, the Center hours are Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. By Memorial Day, the hope is to be open seven days a week. While he acknowledges that the hours have to work out with budget and staff availability, the vision is to be open as much as possible year round and definitely seven days a week in the summer. Pflaum is interested in observations and comments, especially as strategic plans are made for next year as to best days and hours to be open if the Center cannot be open seven days a week.

Next, Pflaum spoke about the Call to Action Report which is a new grassroots initiative from the NPS. He described it as a strategy for the stewardship of resources and engagement with the public and youth for the second century of the existence of the NPS which is marked by its anniversary in 2016. Pflaum pointed out that there is no funding attached, but it is an opportunity to engage with new initiatives or repackage, reaffirm and trumpet the success of what the NPS is already doing. The four major categories in the Call to Action Report are connecting people to parks, advancing the NPS's education mission, preserving America's special places, and enhancing professional and organizational excellence. There are 36 different elements in the report and Pflaum stated that the KNHP has been asked to identify approximately five of those elements which can be adapted, supported and enacted. The NPS would like feedback about what the Commission thinks of the Call to Action Report and what elements the Commission supports.

Next, Superintendent Pflaum spoke about the NPS's budget for the remainder of the fiscal year which was passed by Congress in December. He said that the final details of how that is filtering through to the parks is still being determined. The NPS is looking at a reduction of about 1-2% and so the KNHP is looking at ways to streamline while still accomplishing its mission. In looking at ways to find efficiencies, Pflaum said that he is open to the Commission's thoughts and suggestions.

Pflaum explained that the NPS has what is termed the Service Wide Comprehensive Call (SCC) wherein all the projects for soft sources of funding are prioritized. The deadline is February 10th and Pflaum welcomes feedback from the Advisory Commission as a KNHP staff meeting on the SCC will be held on February 7th. Pflaum shared that the KNHP staff is working hard to ensure proper language, project proposals and funding sources are included in hopes of getting special project funding.

The program for signs for the KHNP and Heritage Sites was largely completed this fall, as acknowledged by Pflaum. He stated that the signs have received positive feedback about the value of the sign program in helping visitors find locations, especially the Heritage Sites which are a big part of the park experience. Pflaum expressed that much credit is due to NPS Landscape Architect Steve Delong.

As the KNHP's 20th anniversary is Oct 27, 2012, Superintendent Pflaum stated that a commemoration is planned and details will come later. Also he hopes that the Commission is involved with this anniversary.

Pflaum said that planning has begun for the commemoration of the 1913 Strike and Italian Hall tragedy. The NPS will assign a coordinator/leader for that event soon.

Pflaum announced that Brian Hoduski is leading efforts for a proposed multi-park collections management facility at a proposed location of the Calumet & Hecla Warehouse Building. The multiple parks involved are KNHP, Isle Royale National Park, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore and potentially the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. Pflaum described the facility as an effort to streamline and professionalize the management, storage, and care of the invaluable cultural resources from all the involved parks. A workshop on how to plan the next stages for making the facility happen will be held during the week of March 27th. Pflaum stated that although the facility is years from reality, it is an idea he believes would find efficiencies and take the care of resources to the next professional level.

Pflaum spoke briefly on the Calumet Culture Landscape Report. He mentioned that contractor Quinn Evans Architects, Landscape Architect Steve Delong and many of those present at the Commission meeting have been involved in the progress. Pflaum described the report as a document to guide thinking on the management of the landscape and cultural resources in the Calumet Unit for years to come.

According to Pflaum, the Union Building opening has been a big event to all divisions of the KNHP staff. He said that a large share of what the park has been doing over the last several months is consolidating Union Building operations. He mentioned that Chief of Interpretation Kathleen Harter wants to specifically acknowledge the support of the Commission in providing school bus grants. There were tours to over 400 local students.

Pflaum announced a new KNHP facebook page has been created. Valerie Newman is coordinating the page.

Pflaum noted that due to the magnitude and nature of the Calumet Visitor Center exhibits, some errors have been discovered. The NPS is correcting those errors.

Work on the C&H Warehouse #1 windows and Keweenaw History Center roof project started in August, according to Pflaum. The prime contractor is J. Clark Construction and the completion date is October 2012. It is a special project through the SCC and project prioritization. In addition, Pflaum stated that in December 2011, work was completed on the \$1 million stabilization project of the Quincy Smelting Works.

Lastly, Superintendent Pflaum recognized the longstanding history of the KNHP's dynamic partnerships. He stated that the working partnership between the Advisory Commission and the KNHP is a wonderful example. In addition, he recognized IRKPA, the NPLSF, and the Heritage Site Partners. Pflaum proposed to spend a day in the spring with key people from all of these partners to coordinate, communicate, find efficiencies and think about what can be done to take things to the next level. He requested that the Commission provide feedback and, if possible, provide a recommendation of support. Pflaum would take responsibility but welcomed assistance from the Commission to coordinate such an event to ensure the long-term sustainability of the KNHP. Pflaum gave the event a working title of the Partnership Summit. He would invite key people from the Midwest Regional Office and perhaps the National Park Foundation out of Washington DC. Pflaum said he would wait for feedback from the Commission before taking further action.

Discussion following Superintendent's Report

Sue Dana stated that she would be out of town during the March 27th workshop on the multi-park collections management facility. Brian Hoduski said it would be great to have a commissioner there and he hoped that Director See would be able to participate as well. Allan Johnson asked about specific dates. Hoduski clarified that it would be the afternoon of the 27th, the full day on the 28th, and the morning of the 29th. Hoduski said that the goal of the workshop is to look at how the participating parks would work together and what time agreement or model would be desirable. He would like to make sure that the Commission is involved so the unique responsibilities of the KNHP with its partners is represented in the discussion. Allan Johnson said that chances are he would be there. Bob Langseth said that he was undecided. Ed Jenich said he was unable to attend on Tuesday but could make the other days.

Approval of Support of the Partnership Summit

Approval of the Advisory Commission supporting the Partnership Summit as described by Superintendent Mike Pflaum was moved by Allan Johnson and seconded by Ed Jenich. In discussion, Johnson asked about the date for the summit. Pflaum said he was open to recommendations for the date at this time. Sue Dana mentioned the desire to have representation of the Heritage Sites. Scott See said if the motion passed he would work with Pflaum on how to involve the Heritage Sites. Allan Johnson commented on Pflaum's earlier statement that the Keweenaw NHP's existence spans two centuries by adding that in fact it spans two millennia. Motion carried unanimously. (5/0)

Other Reports from Commissioners

Allan Johnson commented that despite the poor weather, the turnout for today's meeting was better than at the October meeting.

Ed Jenich stated that he was hoping for a good turn out at the Smackdown. Pflaum commented that he appreciated the Commission's efforts to sponsor the event last year. Pflaum said that it is unique and dynamic for the NPS to be engaged with that event. He had gone to the archives to read reports and looked at photographs from previous Smackdown events and said it was a great event. Pflaum and Deputy Regional Directory Patty Trap discussed the event and Trap is interested in making it a national media story within the NPS because she thinks it is one of the best practices of youth engagement and education initiatives that she sees.

Jenich also expressed that he enjoyed Pflaum's thoughts and theory on the Partnership Summit. He said he felt it was important to bring all entities into one and it was a positive idea.

Sue Dana said that the Village of Calumet and the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) will be recipient of a historic structure stabilization grant for the Paine Webber building in the summer. The Village is working with the DDA to come up with a plan to put a roof on and floor in the building, as well as address the façade.

Bob Langseth said that he met with Congressman Benishek in Washington, DC and when he was in Mohawk. Langseth said that he found Benishek was not well informed of the Keweenaw NHP and he hoped that Benishek received fresh insight so that he

could support the Park. Langseth stated that all of the Heritage Sites need to get their materials including hours in for the park newspaper around Feb 1st. Langseth said he would like to see coordination in regards to the 1913 commemoration and he has spoken about this with Director See. Sue Dana agreed about the coordination. Dana asked See to inform the Commission of when there would be another meeting about the 1913 commemoration. See said there would be a public meeting at the Calumet Visitor Center on Saturday, January 28th at 1 p.m. See also mentioned that there was one other coordination meeting but he didn't have the date. Dana requested this information be sent to the Commissioners and See agreed to do so.

Comments from Legislators or Legislative Staff

Amy Berglund of Senator Levin's Office stated that a collection of appropriation bills were passed and are good through the end of September. Berglund said it included many cuts throughout the board and the NPS saw some cuts. She said that in the grand scheme of things it wasn't too bad and they could have seen a lot worse. Right now, she is unsure of where those cuts are going to impact the parks, but she is keeping an eye on those.

Berglund reported on Senator Levin's visit in October. She said all the the events they attended were great and Senator Levin was impressed with everything as usual. According to Berglund, Senator Levin was touched by personal stories he heard from the community at-large, stories behind donated artifacts, and the people that he met. She said it connected him to the Park and he continues to be impressed with how the Park is a part of the community. She said Senator Levin had the opportunity to tour the Smelter and see stabilization work that has been completed there. Berglund explained that it was an unusual experience for Senator Levin because with other projects he usually only sees the end product. With the Smelter, he had the chance to tour it before any money was put into it and then was able to secure some earmarks with other legislative offices and now see where that funding is going. She reported that Senator Levin was very happy with the Smelter and what is going on. Berglund said if they had the opportunity to submit for earmarks again, they certainly would but that is not available now. They are unsure when or if they will ever get that back but they are looking for other opportunities to help support the Smelter. Berglund concluded by expressing her thanks to the KNHP and Commission.

Sue Dana thanked Berglund and requested that she thank Senator Levin again. Dana said it is an honor to have him come and is amazed at his frequent visits to the area. Bob Langseth added that he would like Berglund to thank Senator Levin for his comments at the naturalization service at the Calumet Visitor Center open house.

Comments from Keweenaw Heritage Site Representatives

Virginia Jamison reported that the project to fix the ceiling and floor of the Eagle River Museum which was funded by a grant given by the Advisory Committee to Houghton Township has been completed. She thinks the project may have come in under budget and she may be talking to Director See about how to match that. She said the floor is now firm. Volunteers spent two whole days cleaning. Laminated beams were installed and stained to match the woodwork. Jamison said that it looks nice and is effective.

Jamison mentioned that there is an ongoing exhibit at the Carnegie Museum. She said that Mark Rowe and Elise Nelson worked together to set up an exhibit on Keweenaw and Portage lifesaving stations. It is currently closed for repairs but will be open again in February to the end of May. Rowe will be doing a presentation on the exhibit at the Carnegie Museum on February 9th at 6:30 p.m.

David King reported that the Grand Raffle at the Calumet Theatre was a tremendous success. The tickets were sold out in eleven weeks. King said that due to rapid ticket sales, the theatre was able to save on advertising expenses and so made more than the projected \$15,000. King stated that there will be an updated ticket selling system in place by summer to allow online ticket purchases. In addition, a water fountain has been located which can be installed. King said that the Theatre is moving forward with phase 2 of the Fresh Air Ventilation plan due to the Grand Raffle and another Grand Raffle likely in the summer. He announced that the box office which was shut down for a month will reopen Wednesday at noon. King pointed out that details on upcoming events at the Calumet Theatre could be found in the newsletter to be picked up by the meeting room door. In conjunction with the Union Building opening, King stated that the Theatre placed a related display on the landing to the Ballroom.

Kristine Bradof stated that IRKPA is also having a raffle. The grand prize is a round trip to Isle Royale and two nights at the Rock Harbor Lodge. Tickets cost \$5 each or 3 for \$10 and are available at the Calumet Visitor Center or the Isle Royale Headquarters. In the future, Bradof said IRKPA may do a raffle that is Keweenaw-based and she welcomes ideas for prizes for such a raffle. Allan Johnson said that he believes that the Isle Royale National Park in Houghton has some items in the General Service Administration (GSA) auctions. Kristine said that she tried to bid on a map case and she was outbid twice. Johnson asked if the items are available for viewing. Kristine suggested to contact Kate Hanrahan, but that the auctions will soon be over so acting quickly is crucial. Johnson mentioned that the Heritage Sites may have an interest in the items. Tom Baker said that the auctions are an ongoing program and anyone can go onto the GSA website to see what is available. Dana asked if they are local items. Hoduski said there are items from both parks. Johnson said there are items from all over in addition to the local items.

Anita Campbell, representing the Keweenaw Heritage Center at St. Anne's, reported that the first phase of the handicap accessible lift system is complete. The inspection will happen in the spring so that it can be up and running by this summer. She said fundraising for the second phase will begin in the summer. Campbell stated there will be three pipe organ concerts to be held this summer at the Keweenaw Heritage Center. The Commission gave a grant for the publication of a book on the thirteen historic pipe organs in the Keweenaw. Campbell reported that the book which was written by Jan Dahlquist and herself is ready to go the printer and will be published in the spring.

According to Jean Pemberton, the Copper Range Historical Society is holding regular board meetings every month, but the museum is not open for the season until the first Saturday in June. She reported that planning had begun for the annual member dinner which is on July 5th, the first Thursday of July. Will Sproule from MTU will speak about the Copper Range Railroad. Pemberton said Steve Albee had pointed out dead limbs overhanging telephone lines behind the museum and since then someone cut the limbs at the cost of \$2000.

Glenda Bierman from the Quincy Mine Hoist Association (QMHA) stated that the mine is now closed for the season but the gift shop did stay open from Thanksgiving to

Christmas. She reported attendance of 130 in the fourteen days that the gift shop was open during the holidays. The QMHA's current focus is getting the 1918 hoist house stabilized and they are awaiting word on a byways grant. In putting the heritage grants to work, Bierman said that last year a tractor with front end loader was acquired to move many tons of rock in the mine. Also, the interpretive panels are being finished, but there is a technical delay. Bierman stated that the season dates for 2012 are weekends only starting Friday, April 27th, followed by daily from June 8th to the end of October. Bierman said that the QMHA is excited to have the lights on the shaft house and is just hoping for the final \$2,000 to pay for it. Ed Jenich called the illumination of the shaft house fantastic and stated he has heard positive comments. The only negative comment he has heard is it doesn't come on early enough. Jenich thinks the QMHA should be credited for a job well done. Tom Baker asked if there was an ongoing fundraising effort. Bierman said there is but it's not well publicized. She said the lights are on only one hour a night to cut down on costs, but they will be back on for Heikinpaiva and once again for Winter Carnival, but then probably back to just an hour at night until the fund can be built up. Bierman said more information is available in the QMHA newsletter and donations are accepted on the QMHA website. Johnson asked that Bierman elaborate on the costs for keeping the lights on. Bierman said estimates are between \$1 to \$2 per hour to keep the lights on. The lights are the highest efficiency the QMHA could get and they are on a timer. She said the QMHA plans to have the electrician who helped install the lights get a meter set up to record energy output. Scott See said that people seem to be responding well to the illumination and requested that the QMHA make it known that they are continuing to accept donations. Bierman said that there is a donation box in the gift shop but unfortunately that is currently closed.

Comments from the Public

Anita Campbell said she is a huge fan of the History Smackdown and thinks it is inspirational to see all the high school students who have studied their local history. However, Campbell expressed that she is disappointed in low attendance. She wonders if there is a way to promote it to get a bigger audience. She said she wished the schools would promote it better, suggesting cheerleaders for the school team. Ed Jenich said during the last few years, the audience has stayed the same while the number of participants has increased. He suggested having more promotion of the event including the local paper, the radio stations, and the school system to motivate the participants, students and families. Jenich said he noticed there are a lot of students there but the parents are not there to support them and so that needs some consideration. Virginia Jamison said that she wondered if there was some way to get the schools more involved. She asked if the NPS would do an after school program with students from Calumet High School because she thinks if there was more Calumet participation there would be more audience participation. David King asked if students from the industrial archeology program would be interested in attending because it could be encouraging if the local students saw college students attending. Scott See said that was possible, but it is a relatively small program of only a dozen students. Brian Hoduski stated that a problem in getting attendance from the Calumet schools is that often times they have other events scheduled at the same time, such as athletic events. In addition, he said that History Days occurs downstate at same time and some of the best history students go to Lansing for that event. Hoduski said because of budget cuts, the schools have dropped the local history part of their curriculum and he

thinks that is part of the reason some years they are not able to put a team together. Jamison said for that reason, she thinks that the Park should host an after school program. Hoduski said that last year, the Park tried to put together something for the faculty as a continuing education course through the Intermediate School District (ISD), but the Park was unable to follow through due to lack of participants. Jamison asked about perhaps a park intern to work with the Calumet students. Hoduski said due to the competitive nature of the Smackdown, there may be complaints about the Park assisting the Calumet students. Anita Campbell agreed and said that Jamison's idea is a good one but it would have to be a volunteer. Steven Albee said that it's time-consuming to contact each superintendent or principal and he thinks that for that reason the ISD would be a good place to start promotion within the schools to get more students and get the message back to the parents. Hoduski said that Carla Strome of the ISD has been very supportive and it would be a good idea to attend one of their roundtables. Ed Jenich added that he raised the question of attendance a few years ago when Calumet didn't participate. He was told the solicitation was too late at the end of March or beginning of April. He said now the approach is in January. Kristine Bradof asked if another night of the week would be better to avoid athletics. Hoduski said that the Smackdown is part of the Fourth Thursday in History program and the Park has considered the date but he thinks there is really no way to avoid athletics. David King said perhaps over time because of the community involvement angle, the schools might be willing to work with the sports programs. Dana suggested extra credit for attendance. Allan Johnson said that he and his wife go to the Smackdown and were told they can no longer whisper the answers to each other because the acoustics at the Calumet Theatre are so good.

Motion to Adjourn

At 10:35 a.m., a motion to adjourn was made by Steven Albee and seconded by Allan Johnson. The motion carried. (4/0)

Next Meeting

Tuesday, April 17, 2012